



HOLIDAY MAILING INFORMATION



HOLIDAY MAILING DATES AND POSTAL GUIDANCE FACT SHEET

Purpose: The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide the Rear Detachment Commanders, Family Readiness Group Leaders and Liaisons and Spouses of our deployed service members' information on the 2003 Holiday Mailing Dates and current postal guidance to ensure that Christmas cards, letters and parcels reach their destinations by Christmas Day.

Holiday Mailing Dates

These are the recommended dates to have Christmas cards, letters, and parcels placed in the mail to ensure proper delivery by Christmas Day.

FROM GERMANY TO CONUS

<u>SAM PARCELS</u>	<u>20 November 2003, Thursday</u>
<u>PAL PARCELS</u>	<u>04 December 2003, Thursday</u>
<u>PRIORITY PARCELS</u>	<u>11 December 2003, Thursday</u>
<u>FIRST CLASS LETTERS AND CARDS</u>	<u>11 December 2003, Thursday</u>
<u>EXPRESS MAIL</u>	<u>18 December 2003, Thursday</u>

FROM GERMANY TO CENTCOM AOR

<u>MPS PARCELS</u>	<u>20 November 2003, Thursday</u>
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FROM CONUS TO CENTCOM AOR

<u>SAM PARCELS</u>	<u>6 November 2003, Thursday</u>
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Mailing Guidance to CENTCOM AOR

While there is no specific limit to number of MPS packages mailed to CENTCOM AOR, patrons should take into consideration time, space availability, and resources to transport the mail.

Helpful hints include:

- Recommend mailing 5 MPS packages per visit to ensure quicker processing of the mail at the finance windows.
- Appointments can be made at the local APO between the hours of 0800 - 0900 hours for personnel with more than 5 packages.

Mailing Guidance to CENTCOM AOR (continued)

- Smaller parcels generally move quicker due to space availability as opposed to larger parcels, which has more space requirements.
- Keep the mailing deadlines in mind when sending packages. Earlier is better.

Any Soldier Mail

Based on the previous mail related biological/explosive terrorist attacks, the "Any Service Member" mail and "Operation Dear Abby" programs were suspended by Department of Defense (DoD) as of 18 October 2001. Per DoD mailing guidelines, all mail must be addressed to a specific addressee in addition to a proper return address. In lieu of the "Any Service Member" mail program, the DoD has approved the USO as an official organization authorized to send care packages and personal greetings under the *Operation USO Care Package* Program. Here is how it works:

- Individuals may donate \$25 along with a personal greeting, which goes toward sponsorship of an "Operation USO Care Package." The greeting is then transcribed onto an official "Operation USO Care Package" postcard and attached to the care package.
- The care packages are then forwarded to the CENTCOM AOR for distribution to the soldiers.
- Items in the care packages include shaving kits, shampoo/conditioner, sunscreen, and other sundry items.

The forwarding address for checks and personal greetings for "Operation USO Care Package" to:

USO-Operation USO Care Package
C/O Pentagon Federal Credit Union
P.O. Box 19221
Alexandria, VA 22320-9998
<http://www.usometrodc.org/care.html>

- Individuals may also send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at <http://anyservicemember.org> or <http://www.OperationDearAbby.net>

If there are any questions, please contact your local APO postal officer or supervisor. You may also contact the 55th PSB Postal Company Commander at CIV 06181-88-8642.

"ALWAYS THERE IN SUPPORT!"